

# ENERGY TIDBITS

August 2005

**National Energy Efficiency Forum** has recognized Governor Granholm for her efforts to promote energy efficiency within state government. Granholm received the Forum's Governor's Award recognizing her efforts to promote energy efficiency in state facilities through Executive Directive 2005-4. The directive requires state government to reduce energy use 10% in all state-owned and operated buildings by 2008 and reduce state purchases of grid-based energy 20% by 2015. Completed audits of state-owned facilities show that the state can potentially save \$4 million by becoming more energy efficient. The state has already made changes in accordance with Granholm's executive directive and is now using energy efficient light bulbs, requiring newly acquired electronics and appliances to be Energy Star, and adding hybrid cars to the state's fleet.

**Energy Choices for a Sustainable Future Conference** will be held on Saturday, August 27, 10 am - 5 pm at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. Cost: \$25/20 if registered by August 15. Topics include: Energy State-of-the-State, Renewable Energy Primer, Energy Education for Teachers, Wind Energy, Future of Transportation, Peak Oil, Green Building, Home Energy Audits, Zero Energy Home, Hydrogen Myths & Facts, and much more! [www.uheac.org](http://www.uheac.org) or call 248-693-1021 or e-mail [uheac@earthlink.net](mailto:uheac@earthlink.net).

**Apprentice Photovoltaic Class** will be held on August 15-19 at the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. Center in Dimondale. Contact: [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org), 800-434-9788, [info@glrea.org](mailto:info@glrea.org)

**Future Electric Capacity Needs** status report has been released by the MPSC. Last October the MPSC launched a Capacity Need Forum (CNF) charged with investigating the state's potential need for additional electric generation. Over 200 individuals representing 47 groups have participated in the Forum. Participants have been divided into five work groups: electric demand; central station generation; alternate renewable energy generation; transmission; and integration. Electric demand is expected to grow by about 2% annually. The final report, due Jan. 1, 2006, will include recommendations on the best resources to meet future need. Resource options include new power plants, expanded transmission, renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, demand response programs, and combined heat and power options. [www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc)

**Unleashing the Potential:** Future of Energy in Michigan (October 20) and Wind Energy in Michigan (October 21) Conferences will be held in Lansing. Save the date. [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org)

**Building a Small Solar Panel System** will be held on August 13, 9 am - 1 pm at Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center. Cost for 10 Watt system is \$325. This workshop is designed to help those who are interested in solar design build their own small photovoltaic system. Pre-registration and payment are required. The workshop is limited to 10 people. [www.uheac.org](http://www.uheac.org) or call 248-693-1021 or e-mail [uheac@earthlink.net](mailto:uheac@earthlink.net).

**DestiNY USA** is planned to be a multi-billion-dollar, 800-acre shopping and entertainment complex that uses 100% clean energy. Bulldozers powered by pure biodiesel are scheduled to begin leveling the development site in June on a massive brownfield in Syracuse. The retail complex will be powered entirely by wind turbines, solar panels, fuel cells, and biofuels. DestiNY would produce and consume at least 32 MW of solar electricity, 28 MW from fuel cells (with hydrogen derived from renewables), 120 MW from biodiesel and biomass combined, and 44 MW from wind power.

**New Zealanders** will pay an extra NZ\$2.90 a week for electricity, petrol and gas when the country becomes the first in the world to introduce a carbon tax to address global warming. It is expected to add about 6% to household energy prices and 9% for most businesses but will help the economy in the long run, according to the minister responsible for climate change policy.

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**Intermediate Solar Heating Seminar & Installation** will be held on August 26-27 at the GLREA Center in Dimondale. [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org)

**City of Ann Arbor** has been chosen as one of eight cities in the Great Lakes region to take part in a two-year Great Lakes Climate Policy Coordination Project. Eight cities (Chicago, Toronto, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Toledo, & Duluth) will collaborate on the development and implementation of innovative policies and practices that reduce greenhouse gasses and air pollutants. Funding comes from the Joyce Foundation.

**Ground Source Heat Pumps** is the topic of the June issue of the Energy Observer. Email me at [jhsarve@michigan.gov](mailto:jhsarve@michigan.gov) for a copy.

**Secretary of Energy Bodman** joined United Solar Ovonic in breaking ground on the company's new amorphous silicon thin-film solar manufacturing plant in Auburn Hills. When the new 160,000 sq.ft. facility is completed in May 2006, it will create 200 new jobs and double production, allowing the company to produce enough solar modules each year to generate 50 megawatts of power.

**Tumwater State Office Building** in Olympia, WA has toilets with two switches -- one for a 0.8-gallon flush and one for a 1.6-gallon flush. Depending on what's in the toilet, a big flush might not be needed. The building is the first to meet the state's high performance energy standards. Besides the toilets, the building has several innovative features: half of the roof is covered in native soil and plants, the building creates ice during the night and uses the ice to cool the air during the summer, the urinals use no water, and "Light shelves" along the south windows are designed to bounce light off the ceiling, creating more natural light for the employees. <http://159.54.227.3/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050712/NEWS/536>

**750 kW Wind Turbine** in downtown Toronto will produce hydrogen through a refueler developed by Hydrogenics. The HyLYZER unit at the Canadian National Exhibition is the city's first public hydrogen refueling station and it will use electricity from the turbine to produce hydrogen that will refuel a range of fuel cell demonstration vehicles. The facility will produce 65 kg of hydrogen every day, which is sufficient to fuel 20 vehicles.

**Introduction to Renewable Energy Seminars** will be held on September 10 at the GLREA Center in Dimondale. [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org)



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